

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049346 TOSEC 060027

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049346 TOSEC 060027

EXDIS, FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, VE, US

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: KIDNAPPING OF NIEHOUS IN
VENEZUELA--UPDATE

REF: STATE 049295 (TOSEC 060015)

1. KIDNAPPERS OF NIEHOUS PROVIDED ON FEBRUARY 28 TO
VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCES AND PRESS A SEVEN-PAGE "COM-
MUNIQUE." IT SAYS THAT NIEHOUS IS BEING TRIED BY THE
"REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND ARGIMIRO GABALDON" FOR A LONG LIST
OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND HIS COMPANY FOR INTERVENTION IN
VENEZUELAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PLUNDERING OF COUNTRY AND
WORKING CLASS. "COMMUNIQUE" IS AN EXTENSIVE IDEOLOGICAL
ATTACK ON OWENS-ILLINOIS AS ONE EXAMPLE OF THE WAY IN WHICH
MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WORK WITH LOCAL POLITICAL AND
BUSINESS LEADERS AGAINST THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE. DOCUMENT:

-- SUPPORTS MARXISM-LENINISM, PLO, AND REVOLUTIONARY
PERSEVERANCE OF VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS.

-- CALLS FOR A STRATEGIC BATTLE PLAN LIKE ONE IN
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SOUTHERN CONE BETWEEN CHILE'S MIR, BOLIVIAN ELN,

URUGUAYAN MLN AND ARGENTINE ERP.

-- OPPOSES YANKEE IMPERIALISM, SOVIET REVISIONISM, AND ZIONISM. CUBA IS NOT MENTIONED. IT ENDS WITH WARNING TO POLICE THAT REPRESSIVE MEASURES WILL RESULT IN THE EXECUTION OF NIEHOUS AND MENTIONS NOTHING ABOUT RANSOM OR MEASURES REQUIRED TO FREE NIEHOUS. WE GATHER FROM EMBASSY CARACAS, HOWEVER, THAT "THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF EVENTUAL RANSOM DEMAND OR TRADE-OFF HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY DISCARDED BY THE VENEZUELAN POLICE."

2. DOCUMENT ESTABLISHES CLEAR POLITICAL MOTIVE OF KID-NAPPING--MOST VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THE LETTER AUTHENTIC. GROUP IS UNKNOWN TO VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS OR TO EMBASSY. DOCUMENT AND ATTACHMENTS OF COPIES OF PUR-PORTED TELEX MESSAGES BETWEEN NIEHOUS AND OWENS-ILLINOIS HOME OFFICE SUGGEST EXTENSIVE PREPARATION AND A NETWORK WHICH MAY HAVE PENETRATED COMPANY IN VENEZUELA. MENTION IN COMMUNIQUE OF COLLABORATION OF PROMINENT AD AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS WITH OWENS-ILLINOIS MAKES CLEAR THAT ATTACK IS AGAINST VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS AS MUCH AS AGAINST MULTINATIONALS. INGERSOLL

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